Vol. VII. Numb. 31

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflexions on a Letter from Surry, *complaining of Soldiers being ill us'd by their Officers. On the confining of* Bartholomew-*Fair to three Days, according to the Royal Grant of it to the City of* London. *On the Neceſſity of promoting a Reformation of Manners. On the Poſture of Affairs Abroad; and about carrying on the War more vigorouſly by Sea.*

From Wednesday, June 2. to Saturday, June 5. 1708.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter from a Town in *Surry* to you, Maſter.

Obſ. About what, *Roger?* Pray give me an Account of it.

Country-m. 'Tis ſign'd by three Gentlemen, Maſter, who ſay they give you the Trouble, becauſe you have lately taken Notice of ſome ill Practices of Officers; and pray you to inſert what they write of the ill Treatment of the poor Soldiers, by ſome Officers there, that others may avoid doing the like.

Obſ. I am ſorry there ſhould be any Occaſion for ſuch Complaints, *Roger*. Pray tell me the Particulars.

Country-m. They ſay, Maſter, 'That a Captain 'there, pays his Men no more than three Pence 'per Day, and gave them but four Pence per Day 'in their March to *Scotland*, and back again; and 'that they muſt be ſtarv'd, were it not for the 'Charity of the People. They add, that the poor 'Soldiers behave themſelves very civilly, keep good 'Diſcipline, and commit no manner of Diſorder; 'yet a certain *Iriſh* Enſign beats his Men after ſuch 'a barbarous Rate, as the like was never heard of. 'He beat one ſo as the Blood came through his 'Waſtcoat; another he diſabl'd in his Knee, and 'he now lies a dying. He broke another's Skull 'with the Braſs End of his Cane; beat off the Nail 'of another's Thumb; and has hurt a great many 'more. The People of the Town, perceiving this, 'pitty'd the Soldiers, and complain'd of the En'ſign, who was thereupon confin'd, but is at Li'berty again. The Women of the Town are ſo 'incens'd againſt him, that they reſolve to ſtone 'him, and made him lately run for it; ſo that he 'dares not appear in the Streets. The Men being 'ſo ill us'd, 15 of 'em deſerted in their March from '*Scotland*; and they write, that 4 have deſerted 'within theſe few Days, for want of their Pay, 'and being ſo unmercifully beat: And that they 'have not yet had their Levy-Money.

Obſ. That's a rueful Story indeed, *Roger*, that poor Men, who liſt themſelves, to venture their Lives in Defence of their Country, ſhould be treated ſo as no good Man would treat a Beaſt. That Enſign ought to be broke, and puniſh'd according to Law; which will not allow Officers to murder their Men. Such Practices as theſe, make it ſo hard for us to get Soldiers and Sea-men; and therefore, I hope, when our Parliament meets, they will enquire into ſuch Things as are wanting for the better Diſcipline of our Army.

Country-m. I think it highly neceſſary, Maſter, and will ſpeak to my Repreſentatives about it, to take Care, that the poor Soldiers be not ſo barbarouſly us'd, nor cheated of their Pay.

Obſ. In our *Obſervator*, Vol. 6. Numb. 99 and 100, we gave an Account of the Puniſhment enjoin'd by Law, upon ſuch as cheat the Soldiers of their Pay; and particularly, that by 4 and 5 of *Philip* and *Mary*, Cap. 3. Captains are to pay ten times the Value of what they detain from the Soldiers Pay; and by 2 and 3 *Ed.* 6. Cap. 2. the Soldiers who diſcover the ſame to the Lieutenant, or Juſtices of Peace, are to have a Month's Pay, on the Accompt of the Offender, to be paid them by the Treaſurer of the Army: Therefore, *Roger*, the Soldiers ought, when cheated, to apply themſelves to the Civil Magiſtrate for Redreſs.

Country-m. There's too many of our Country Juſtices, Maſter, that have not Courage or Honeſty enough to do Juſtice againſt Officers; but I hope it will be better ſome Time or other. In the mean Time, Maſter, we may ſee the Effect of buying and ſelling Commiſſions, or preferring Men for Favour, and not according to Merit; for certainly ſuch a worthleſs Fellow as this barbarous Enſign, could never be preferr'd, but by ſome indirect Method; or continu'd in his Poſt after this, were it not by the Intereſt of ſome Body or other, upon whom he depends. I am ſure, Maſter, were I his ſuperior Officer, I would drub him with an Oaken Towel, and give him a Taſte of his own Diſcipline.

Obſ. What News do you bring from *London*, *Roger*?

Country-m. I am ſorry, Maſter, that the News which was ſo univerſally believ'd in Town, about the ſinking of one *French* Man of War, and ſtranding another with 500 Men, at *Galway*, is not confirm'd.

Obſ. I am ſorry for it too, *Roger*; and think Stock-jobbers do very ill, who impoſe upon the Publick by ſuch falſe Stories. I heartily wiſh, that the News of our taking 80 *French* Tranſports, with Proviſions, *&c.* in the *Mediterranean*, may be confirm'd.

Country-m. I have good News for you, Maſter, from *London*. The Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Common Council, being ſenſible of the great Corruption of Manners occaſion'd by the Muſick-Booths, Drolls, Shews, *&c.* in *Bartholomew*-Fair, they have agreed, that the Ground ſhall not be let for above three Days.

Obſ. I am heartily glad of it, *Roger*. 'Tis a noble Pattern for Reformation of Manners, ſet by the honourable City of *London*, to the reſt of the Nation; which I hope will be follow'd by a Bleſſing; and by the Suppreſſion of the like diſorderly Practices at *May*-Fair; where a worthy honeſt Conſtable was formerly murder'd for putting the Laws in Execution; and another run the Danger of loſing his Life on the like Occaſion there in *May* laſt. 'Tis the Concern of all Magiſtrates, *Roger*, to promote a Reformation of Manners at all Times, that being the chief End of having the Sword of Juſtice put into their Hands by the divine Providence; and the principal Deſign of Magiſtracy, to puniſh evil Doers, and encourage thoſe that do well; and when they fail in performing that Duty, it never fails to bring down Judgments from Heaven upon themſelves, and the People under their Charge. We have formerly taken Notice, that the Diſſolution of the Peoples Manners, and the Neglect of the Magiſtrates to puniſh it, or their being immers'd in the common Pollutions of the Times, has ruin'd Governments. Thus fell the *Aſſyrian*, *Perſian*, *Grecian*, and *Roman* Empires; and thus fell the *Jewiſh* Government, tho' of God's immediate Inſtitution; and as it was founded, was many times ſupported and retriev'd by Miracle; ſo that Hiſtorians, ſacred and profane, have always inſcrib'd it on the Tombs of thoſe Governments, and others, (if we may be al-

allow'd to make Uſe of that Alluſion) that they were ruin'd by Corruption of Manners.

Country-m. Therefore I hope, Maſter, our Government, which has had ſo many divine Bleſſings attending it, and ſo many glorious and ſurprizing Victories beſtow'd upon it, by the viſible Influence of the Almighty, will take it into their ſerious Conſideration, to put a Stop to that deplorable Corruption of Manners which abounds ſo much among People of all Ranks; ſince it has pleas'd God to withdraw his Hand for ſome Time, as to the mighty Succeſs he formerly gave to our Arms. This, in my Opinion, Maſter, would be one of the moſt likely Methods to have thoſe Bleſſings renew'd, and to bring this deſtructive and tedious War to a ſafe, honourable, and laſting Peace.

Obſ. I agree with you, *Roger*, and think it ought to be duly weigh'd by our Government, and the Parliament when aſſembl'd; for if we continue to *trample under Foot the Blood of the Son of God*, and ſuffer the holy Sacrament to be profan'd, as hitherto, we have no Reaſon to hope, that the War, which conſumes ſo much of our Blood and Treaſure, can be brought to a ſpeedy or happy Iſſue. But pray, *Roger*, what News have you from Abroad? How is the Poſture of Affairs there?

Country-m. Why truly, Maſter, not ſo well as I could wiſh. I find the *German* Empire is ſtill very backward in their Preparations, and the Elector of *Hannover* not ſo well ſupported or encourag'd as he ſhould be, to carry on the War on the *Upper Rhine*; the Elector Palatine is not ſatisfy'd as to his Pretenſions from the Imperial Court; and the War in *Hungary* is ſtill continu'd, without any great Hopes of an Accomodation, tho' the Elector of *Bavaria* ſeems ready to make an Irruption into the Empire.

Obſ. That's the Effect of Jeſuitical and other Popiſh Councils, *Roger*; for the Popiſh Clergy had rather have all Countries ruin'd, than quit with one Rag of their Idolatry and Superſtition, or part with any Thing of their tyrannical Dominion over the Conſciences of Men.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, when our Parliament meets, they will enquire into the Conduct of our Popiſh Allies, and not ſuffer us to exhauſt our Blood and Treaſure in Defence of thoſe who take ſuch awkward and ineffectual Meaſures for defending themſelves; and have ſuch an Averſion to our holy Religion, that they break thro' all Laws, Treaties, and Conſtitutions made in their Favour, as the *German* Papiſts have done againſt the Proteſtants of the Empire, as well as of *Hungary*.

Obſ. I hope ſo too, *Roger*; for if our Land-Armies have no better Succeſs this Campaign, than we have any Ground yet to expect, 'tis my Opinion, that we muſt think of acting another Part by Sea, than we have hitherto done.

Country-m. Why, what would you propoſe, Maſter? You know the Under-ſpur-leathers have formerly libell'd you for talking after that Manner.

Obſ. I don't value that, *Roger*; 'tis the Intereſt of my Country, and not that of any Faction or Party, which I purſue: Therefore let Men call the Author of *The Eſſay on Ways and Means*, a Tory, or what they pleaſe, in my Opinion, he ſpoke a great deal of good and true *Engliſh* Senſe, in his ſecond Part of *The Diſcourſes on the publick Revenues*, publiſh'd in 1698, pag. 99. *viz.* 'A great 'Land Army maintain'd Abroad, utterly dreins 'the Kingdom; and when we look back, it muſt 'aſtoniſh any one, to conſider how this Nation 'has been able to bear ſuch an Expence, both at Sea 'and Land. In nine Years the Navy has coſt us '18061938 *l.* 10 *s.* In nine Years the Land Army 'has coſt us, 20982034 *l.* 18 *s.* 7 *d.* ½. The Total, '39043973 *l.* 8 *s.* 7 *d.* ½. One Million leſs ſpent 'every Year on the Land Army, and laid out upon a Fleet, would increaſe it a full Third, and 'render the Navy ſo powerful, that we might carry on a War at Sea ſingly by our own Strength: 'And hereafter, when the *Hollanders* ſhall be eas'd 'in their Quota of Ships, they may augment their 'Forces at Land, and very well defend themſelves 'and *Flanders*, with a ſmall Addition of Charge, 'and by 20000 of our Troops. And in Caſe of a 'War hereafter, if the main of our Expence run in 'this Channel, we may ſo increaſe our Navy, as 'that our Traffick may be protected; and ſuch a 'Force at Sea, may every where bring the ſame 'Diſtreſs upon the *French* Trade, as their Privateers 'have brought upon ours. With ſuch a Fleet, we 'may ſpoil their Harbours, deſtroy their Ports, and 'perhaps break their Naval Strength.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, theſe Things will be conſider'd by our Parliament, when they meet, if it pleaſe God not to give us, and our Allies, Succeſs this Summer by Land.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ A Fence for the Engliſh Diſſenters, againſt the Reflexions caſt upon them in the Letters betwixt thoſe of Geneva, and the Univerſity of Oxon; and the Slanders of the Rehearſal, as if they were Schiſmaticks from all Churches; containing the Opinion of foreign Proteſtant Churches, about Epiſcopacy and Ceremonies from the Confeſſions call'd the Helvetick, French, Belgick, Poliſh, Bohemian, Augſburg, Wirtemberg, and Saxon; with a Letter from the Miniſter of Geneva, to the Church of England, concerning their Controverſies with the Diſſenters; and Calvin's Letter to Mr. Knox and Mr. Whittingham, about the Book of Common Prayer. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ The Plagues of Ægypt: A Poem. In two Parts. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. price 6d.

¶ The Title, Preface, and Contents to the ſixth Volume of the Obſervator, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6d.

¶ Compleat Sets of the Obſervator, or ſingle ones, ever ſince it was begun by Mr. Tutchin, to this Time, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, and H. Meere at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars.

Theſe are to give Notice,

†‡† That Mary Kirleus, Widow of John Kirleus, Son of Dr. Thomas Kirleus, a ſworn Phyſician in Ordinary to King Charles II. ſells (exactly prepar'd) his famous Drink and Pills, experienc'd above 50 Years, to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Scurvies, Leproſies, Running of the Reins, and the moſt inveterate Venereal Diſeaſe, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or deſtructive Mercurial Preparations. Theſe incomparable Medicines need no Words to expreſs their Virtues; the many miſerable Ones, that have been happily cur'd, after given over by others, ſufficiently recommend them as the moſt ſovereign Remedy in the World againſt all ſuch Malignities. She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compaſſion to the Diſtreſs'd, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 *s.* the Quart, the Pills 1 *s.* the Box, with Directions; and Advice gratis. ¶ She lives at the Golden Ball in Hand-Court, over againſt Great Turn-Stile, in Holborn.

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¶ Any Gentleman, who hath any thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with H. Meere, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, for the Obſervator, Poſt pay'd. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

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